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between the hills, rises the snowy cone of Koriatska; and the store-house of the Alaska Commercial Company, painted the dull Indian red that is so favourite a shade throughout Sweden, forms a pleasing patch of colour in the foreground. It did not take us long to make acquaintance with Petropaulovsky, in spite of its imposing name. The inhabitants, we found, called it Petropaulsk, and, in short, showed every disposition to make things easy for their visitors. Salmon and bilberries were sent off to us, and, on our remarking upon the presence of cows, a supply of cream and

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butter was not long in following. Society here is limited, the Europeans being but eight or ten in number. Mr. Lugobil, the local head of the Alaska Commercial Company, resides here, and superintends the shipping of the sealskins from Bering and Copper Islands; as does Captain Hunter, the cheery agent of Phillippeus and Company, another firm of fur-traders. Of stores (the American term is in use here) there are but two. One of them was owned by a kindly old Swede, who also acted in the capacity of Mayor. He had not visited his native land for thirty years, and it was evidently a source of the keenest pleasure to him to talk of it to one of us who knew it, and loved it almost as much as he did himself. The town is now no longer a military post, and the barracks and fortifications, razed to the ground by the English in 1855, have never been rebuilt. The entire authority is vested in the Ispravnik, whom, in spite of the exigencies of his profession, we did not find averse to the seductions of trade. A Russo-American Jew, better known as the King of Kamschatka, of whom the Russian Government was extremely anxious to get rid, completed, with Dr. Dybowski, the list of Europeans of the sterner sex. The ladies were only four in number.

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With Dr. Dybowski, who has acquired a European fame as a naturalist, it was a pleasure to make acquaintance. His life had been an eventful one. Imprisoned in Siberia for some time for taking part in the Polish insurrection, he had eventually been pardoned and made government doctor of Kamschatka, in which capacity he

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had visited the greater part of the peninsula. Owing to the difficulties of communication excepting in the winter season, he had abundant time on his hands, which he had devoted with indefatigable ardour to his favourite pursuits. Geology, surveying, palæontology, photography and ornithology,—each and all had occupied his leisure hours, with results which were evidenced by the richness of his collections. None of the other Europeans knew anything of the country outside Petropaulovsky, and to him alone we were indebted for what information we could get about our projected route, as well as for many useful hints on Kamschatkan travel.

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Our intention was, if the plan were feasible, to travel northwards from Avatcha Bay until we struck the head waters of the Great Kamschatka River, where we were to procure canoes if possible, or if not to construct rafts, and by this means float down the stream to the sea. Meanwhile, the yacht was to remain in Petropaulovsky harbour for a month or six weeks, and then proceed to the mouth of the river to await our arrival. We found that Dr. Dybowski, in spite of his extensive travels in the peninsula, had not himself performed this journey, neither was he aware of any other person who had attempted it. Communication often takes place with Nischni Kamschatka—an *ostrog* near the mouth of the river—in the winter, but the sledges do not, as in Lapland, travel on the river; and though occasionally a few of the lonely settlements upon its banks are passed, the track leads for the most part by short cuts overland, and we had no means of judging the

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distances or the length of time necessary for our journey. From Dr. Dybowski, however, we were able to obtain all the information that was to be got upon the subject; and to learn that, whatever other difficulties we might have to encounter, that of an insufficient supply of food was certainly not one. His accounts of the really marvellous abundance of fish, which at the time seemed almost incredible, we were destined later to find, if anything, understated. Whether the almost exclusive fish diet of the inhabitants of the

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country has any connection or not with the leprosy prevalent among them, it is difficult to say. Our informant described it as being a common disease, and he must have had considerable opportunities of judging, but it is remarkable that during our journey through the country we met with but one solitary case. Scurvy was, we were told, uncommon, owing no doubt to the abundance of the wild garlic and the *sarana*—a liliaceous plant whose bulb is stored for the winter, and supplies the place of the potato. This latter vegetable has, however, become much more extensively cultivated of late years.

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It was a matter of great regret to us that our acquaintance with Dr. Dybowski should of necessity have been so limited. He was on the eve of a long journey in search of fossils to the Kuril Lake, which lies in an almost unknown region at the southern extremity of the peninsula. It was by such pursuits alone that he was able to mitigate the loneliness of what was, in reality, an exile. During the winter he travelled over the country to such isolated spots of it as are inhabited, and saw his patients. These he was supposed to supply with such medicine as would suffice for their cure, or last them, should they be incurables, until the time of his visit in the following year! It is not every parish doctor whose district is spread over the extent of one hundred thousand square miles!

During the week that was necessary for the completion of our preparations we had abundant time for the exploration of Petropaulovsky and its surroundings. The numerous harbours and lovely scenery of Avatcha Bay would take a month to become thoroughly acquainted with, and it would be hard to imagine a more charming place for the naturalist and sportsman. Possibly, when the salmon rivers of Norway have reached a prohibitory price, and the game of India and South Africa has disappeared, some adventurous individual will recommend Kamschatka as a new field for sportsmen. At present, it must be confessed, it is not very easy to get there. Every year the port is visited by a